

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A self-attaching female fastener for attachment to a metal panel, said self-attaching female fastener comprising:

a central pilot portion having an end face and a bore extending through said end face through said pilot portion;

a flange portion on at least opposed sides of said pilot portion having a generally planar panel support face generally parallel to said end face of said pilot portion; and

a groove in said panel support face of said flange portion adjacent said pilot portion, said groove including an inclined inner side wall defining an outer face of said pilot portion, an inclined outer side wall and a V-shaped bottom wall, said inner side wall inclined outwardly from said bottom wall toward said flange portion and said outer side wall inclined inwardly from said bottom wall toward said pilot portion forming an opening of said groove adjacent said panel support face having a width less than a width of said groove at said bottom wall, and said V-shaped bottom wall having generally equal opposed relatively inclined bottom faces defining sides of an equilateral triangle having an apex extending away from a plane of said panel support face generally equally spaced between said inner and outer side walls of said groove.

2. (Original) The self-attaching female fastener as defined in Claim 1, wherein said bottom faces of said V-shaped groove are inclined relative to said generally planar panel support face at an angle of between 15 and 25 degrees.

3. (Currently Amended) The self-attaching female fastener as defined in Claim 1, wherein said bore is ~~in~~ internally threaded and said self-attaching female fastener includes a back face opposite said end face of said pilot portion having a recess surrounding said bore.

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4. (Currently Amended) The self-attaching female fastener as defined in Claim 1, wherein said apex of said V-shaped bottom wall is an arcuate surface.

5. (Currently Amended) The self-attaching female fastener as defined in Claim 1, wherein said flange portion is generally rectangular including said panel support face on opposed sides of said pilot portion and said panel support face includes groove ~~comprises~~ linear grooves on opposed sides of said pilot portion, ~~in said panel support face~~, and said female fastener including a back face opposite said panel support face of said flange portion, said back face of said fastener including ~~having~~ linear grooves adapted to receive frangible connector elements aligned with said apex of said bottom wall of said linear V-shaped grooves.

6. (Currently Amended) The self-attaching female fastener as defined in Claim 1, wherein said end face of said pilot portion is spaced above said panel support face of said flange portion, ~~and~~ said pilot portion including an outer surface spaced above said panel support face extending generally perpendicular to said end face, said inner and outer side walls of said groove inclined at an angle of between 10 and 20 degrees, and said opposed relatively inclined bottom faces of said V-shaped bottom wall are planar and inclined relative to said panel support face at an angle of between 10 and 15 degrees.

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7. (Previously Presented) A self-attaching female fastener for attachment to a metal panel, said female fastener comprising:

a central pilot portion having an end face and a bore extending through said end face through said pilot portion;

generally rectangular flange portions on opposed sides of said pilot portion each having generally planar panel support face extending generally parallel to said end face of said pilot portion; and

linear grooves on opposed sides of said pilot portion in said panel support faces of said flange portions, said grooves each having a generally planar inclined inner side wall defining outer faces of said pilot portion, a generally planar inclined outer side wall and a V-shaped bottom wall, said inner side wall inclined outwardly from said bottom wall toward said outer side wall and said outer side wall inclined inwardly from said bottom wall toward said inner side wall to adjacent said panel support faces of said flange portions forming a restricted opening to said grooves having a width adjacent said panel support faces less than a width of said groove adjacent said V-shaped bottom wall, and said V-shaped bottom wall including relatively inclined bottom faces having an apex extending away from said panel support faces of said flange portion.

8. (Original) The self-attaching female fastener as defined in Claim 7, wherein said bottom faces of said V-shaped bottom wall are generally equal in width and said apex is generally equally spaced between said inclined inner and outer side walls of said grooves.

9. (Original) The self-attaching female fastener as defined in Claim 7, wherein said self-attaching female fastener includes a back face opposite said panel support faces of said flange portion including linear grooves adapted to receive frangible connector elements aligned with said apex of said bottom faces of said V-shaped bottom wall.

10. (Original) The self-attaching female fastener as defined in Claim 9, wherein said back face includes a recess surrounding said bore and said bore is internally threaded.

11. (Currently Amended) The self-attaching female fastener as defined in Claim 7, wherein said bottom faces of said linear grooves ~~V-shaped groove~~ are inclined relative to said generally planar panel support faces at an angle of between 15 and 25 degrees.

12. (Original) The self-attaching female fastener as defined in Claim 7, wherein said apex of said bottom faces of said V-shaped bottom wall are arcuate.

13. (Currently Amended) The self-attaching female fastener as defined in Claim 12, wherein said apex of said bottom faces of said linear grooves ~~V-shaped groove~~ have a radius of about 0.05 inches or less.

14-23 (Cancelled)